

### Essay Contest

Optimist International will promote an annual Essay Contest under guidelines approved by the Board of Directors. Optimist International will provide scholarships in an amount approved annually by the Board, contingent upon funding by the Optimist International Foundations. Scholarships paid by the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation will be paid in Canadian funds for winners in Canada. Effective October 1, 2018 the contest is open to contestants under the age of 19 as of October 1 of the current Optimist year and is not enrolled as a degree seeking student of a post-secondary institution. There is no minimum age.

### Oratorical Contest

Optimist International will promote an annual oratorical contest under guidelines approved by the Board of Directors. Optimist International will provide scholarships in an amount approved annually by the Board, contingent upon funding by the Optimist International Foundations. Scholarships paid by the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation of Canada will be paid in Canadian funds for winners in Canada. Effective October 1, 2018 the contest is open to contestants under the age of 19 as of October 1 of the current Optimist year and is not enrolled as a degree seeking student of a post-secondary institution. There is no minimum age.

#### District Oratorical Contests

The costs of all District oratorical contests above Club level shall be budgeted by the District administration. Contestant registration and/or entry fees and allocation from the District's general fund, or combination thereof, are the only allowable means of defraying costs of District contests. The expense and elaborateness of Zone or other District elimination contests should be held to an absolute minimum, because such contests are merely preliminary steps in the District contest.

#### Optimist International Regional Oratorical Contests

The costs of the Optimist International Regional Oratorical Contests held at Saint Louis University shall be budgeted by Optimist International. Contestant scholarships will be provide by Optimist International's general fund and/or the Optimist International Foundation or the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation and may be supplemented with donor or corporate donations or sponsorships. The travel, housing, and meal expenses incurred by contestants and chaperones will be the responsibility of the District, Club, or individual.

#### Saint Louis University Global Region Contest

The scholarships of the Saint Louis University Global Region Contest held at Saint Louis University shall be budgeted by Optimist International and the

Optimist International Foundation and may be supplemented with donor or corporate donations or sponsorships. The travel, housing, and meal expenses incurred by contestants and chaperones will be the responsibility of the District, Club, or individual. The administrative costs for the Regional Contest will be shared by Optimist International and Saint Louis University.

**Optimist International Oratorical World Championships Contest**

The Oratorical World Championships is a permanent component to the Oratorical program. Effective October 1, 2021, each District Winner shall compete at the World Oratorical Championships in person at the designated locations. If unable to attend in person, the next available runner up, would be allowed to compete for the World Oratorical Scholarships. The scholarships of the Optimist International Oratorical World Championships Contest held at Saint Louis University shall be budgeted by Optimist International, the Optimist International Foundation, and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation (for Canadian winners). The travel, housing, and meal expenses incurred by contestants and chaperones will be the responsibility of the District, Club, or individual. The administrative costs for the World Championships Contest will be shared by Optimist International and Saint Louis University.

**Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

Optimist International will promote an annual Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Contest under guidelines approved by the Board of Directors. Optimist International will provide scholarships in an amount approved annually by the Board, contingent upon funding by the Optimist International Foundation and Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation (for Canadian winners). The contest is open to young people through grade 12 in the United States and Canada, to CEGEP in Québec and grade 13 in the Caribbean, who are educated in the United States, Canada or the Caribbean.

**Optimist International Community Projects include:**

- Respect for Law/Promotion of Non-Violence
- Youth Appreciation
- Youth Safety
- Tri-Star Sports Skills Contests

The Childhood Cancer Campaign will be supported by the Optimist International Foundation and the Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation. As of October 1, 2018, The Childhood Cancer Campaign will be broadened to include Childhood Health and Wellness.

**International Programs Evaluation Scale**

If the number of Clubs participating in an International Program falls below 30% on a two-year average, the program could be discontinued as an International program and will lose its funding. The Program will then become a non-funded Community Activity.

This applies only to International scholarship programs. The Junior Optimist International and the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships are exempt as they are self-sustaining.

**Community Activities Scale**

If the number of Clubs participating in a Community Activity falls below 20% Club participation on a two-year average, it could be removed from the list.

This applies only to Community activities, which include the Tri-Star Sports Skills Contests, Youth Appreciation, Youth Safety, Respect for Law/Promotion of Non-Violence, Internet Safety. The Childhood Cancer Campaign is administered by the Optimist International Foundation and Canadian Children's Optimist Foundation.

(June 1987; Mar 1989; Dec 1993; Mar 1994; Jun 2001; Dec 2005; Dec 2007; Mar 2010; Dec 2013; Oct 2014; Apr 2015; Dec 2015; Dec 2016; Sep 2017; Jul 2018; Mar 2019)